

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 00923 202039Z

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 AID-05 PC-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCS-03

SCA-01 DHA-02 NEA-10 AF-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /116 W

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R 201405Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7613

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NL

SUBJECT: TERRORISM: DUTCH LOOK BACK AT HQLUCCAN AFFAIRS

1. SUMMARY: DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS REAFFIRMED ITS SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO FIGHT TERRORISM. PARLIAMENT SUPPORTS GON ON POLICIES USED TO END MOLUCCAN HOSTAGE AFFAIRS, WITH WIDE-SPREAD APPROVAL SHOWN FOR GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO GIVE IN TO TERRORIST DEMANDS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING TWO-DAY DEBATE LAST WEEK IN SECOND CHAMBER OF STATES

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PAGE 02 THE HA 00923 202039Z

GENERAL, DUTCH CABINET OFFICIALS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS REVIEWED

GON'S HANDLING OF DECEMBER TERRORIST ACTIONS BY SOUTH MOLUCCANS AND DISCUSSED MEASURES WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN TO LESSEN CHANCES FOR A REPEAT. DEBATES WERE FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY MOLUCCAN LEADERS, BUT ATTRACTED LITTLE ATTENTION OTHERWISE⁹⁵

3. REPORTING ON GON INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION DURING MOLUCCAN SEIZURES, PRIMIN DEN UYL SAID THAT PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY HAD RESTED WITH JUSTICE MINISTRY, BUT THAT BECAUSE OF WIDE-RANGING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS WHICH HAD TO BE TAKEN, HE AND MINISTERS FOR INTERIOR AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD BEEN INTIMATELY INVOLVED THROUGHOUT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER IT WISE TO TIE UP GOVERNMENT IN SUCH A CASE, DEN UYL AGREED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF GOVERNING PROCESS. HE THOUGHT THAT MINISTERS HAD BEEN ABLE TO COPE WITH THEIR OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES DURING TERRORIST ACTIONS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT GON SUPPORTED WORLDWIDE COOPERATION TO COUNTER TERRORISM. EC-9 EXPOERTS WOULD MEET SHORTLY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT. (DUTCH MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND INTERIOR ARE IN LUXEMBOURG FEB 20 FOR MEETING.) REFERRING TO RECENT LOCAL NEWSPAPER STORIES THAT NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF HAD PREPARED A REPORT ON TERRORISM, LABOR PARTY SPOKESMAN SAID HIS PARTY WAS OPPOSED TO NATO PLAYING ANY ROLE IN DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM. SPOKESMAN REPEATED STAND-ARD SENTIMENT OF LEFT-WING DUTCH, THAT ALLIANCE WAS STRICTLY A MILITARY ORGANIZATION AND SHOULD NOT EXPAND ITS ACTIVITIES TO ENCOMPASS POLITICAL QUESTIONS.

5. IN PARLIAMENT DEBATE, JUSTICE AND INTERIOR MINISTERS DEFENDED DUTCH INTERNAL SECURITY SERVICE (BVD) AGAINST CHARGES THAT IT SHOULD HAVE PREVENTED MOLUCCAN TERRORISM. BVD HAD A GOOD RECORD IN WHAT WAS OBVIOUSLY A DIFFICULT AREA. SERVICE HAD FOILED MOLUCCAN PLANS TO KIDNAP QUEEN (MARCH 1975) AND HAD CAPTURED SYRIAN TERRORISTS (SEPTEMBER 1975) BEFORE THEY COULD HIJACK A TRAIN. JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO INSTITUTIONALIZING A TERRORIST CRISIS TEAM WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. GON HAD (UNFORTUNATELY) DEVELOPED CONSIDERABLE EXPERTISE THROUGH ITS EXPERIENCE WITH TERRORISTS. BEHAVIORAL EXPERTS WERE AVAILABLE AND WOULD BE USED IN NEGOTIATIONS, BUT GREAT FLEXIBILITY WAS NEEDED AS EACH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 THE HA 00923 202039Z

CASE WAS DIFFERENT.

6. VARIOUS MEASURES WERE PROPOSED DURING DEBATE TO MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE TERRORIST ACTIONS. JUSTICE MINISTER AGREED TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION TO MAKE "CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT TERRORISTS ACTS" A CRIMINAL OFFENCE. (LACK OF SUCH LEGISLATION RESULTED IN SYRIAN TERRORISTS BEING PROSECUTED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF WEAPONS.) OTHER PARLIAMENTARIANS SUGGESTED THAT

GON TIGHTEN UP ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING LEGISLATION AGAINST PRIVATE POSSESSION OF WEAPONS. ONE MEASURE SUGGESTED WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF AMNESTY PERIOD FOR TURNING IN ILLEGAL WEAPONS.

7. PERHAPS MOST NOTEWORTHY ASPECT OF DEBATE WAS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT GON GOT FOR ITS HANDLING OF MOLUCCAN AFFAIRS. PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM BOTH SIDES OF AISLE WERE FIRM ON POSITION THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT GIVE IN TO TERRORIST DEMANDS. LEADER OF LEFT-WING RADICAL PARTY DE GAAY FORTMAN, SON OF THE INTERIOR MINISTER, STATED CASE STARKLY WHEN HE SAID PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT "ONE'S OWN LIFE MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE SECOND PLACE TO (SAFEGUARDING) DEMOCRATIC LEGAL ORDER."

8. SUMMING UP, JUSTICE MINISTER SAID GON BASED ITS CONDUCT DURING MOLUCCAN SEIZURES ON FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) CAPTIVES ARE NOT ITEMS WHICH MAY BE EXPORTED;
(B) TERRORISTS WHO HAVE KILLED WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE COUNTRY; (COMMENT: GON POLICY ON PASSAGE OUT OF COUNTRY FOR TERRORISTS WHO HAVE NOT KILLED ANYONE LEFT UNCLEAR, ALTHOUGH ADDRESSEES WILL REMEMBER THAT JAPANESE RED ARMY TERRORISTS WHO SEIZED FRENCH AMBASSADOR WERE PERMITTED TO LEAVE.)
(C) MATERIEL CONCESSIONS (I.E., FOOD, BLANKETS, ETC.) MIGHT BE PERMITTED, BUT NO POLITICAL CONCESSIONS WOULD BE GRANTED; AND
(D) THE LIVES OF CAPTIVES SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED "AS FAR AS POSSIBLE."
BOTH VAN AGT AND PRIMIN STATED THAT THERE IS NO LEGAL OR MORAL OBLIGATION ON GOVERNMENTS TO HONOR DEALS MADE WITH TERRORISTS, BUT IT MIGHT BE RECOGNIZED THAT A BREACH OF PROMISE WOULD ENDANGER LIVES IN FUTURE CASES.
GOULD

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